Class: Introduction to Biology

Unit: Ecology

Topic: Owl Pellet Experiment

Instructional Objectives: Students will be able to…

1.Dissect owl pellets and classify different organism bones.

2.Graph data pertaining to organism bone count.

Time Activity

5 minutes Opening- Collect Food Chains from previous class period at the beginning of class. Before students go to the laboratory benches to perform their experiment, the laboratory packet will be passed out to all students. As a class we will read aloud the abstract, all of the directions, main points of safety, as well as the purpose of the experiment. This will be done while students are still at their regular desks. Students will then begin the experiment at the laboratory tables. Make note to students to be recording their data and observations on the data sheets provided. Also remind students they will have the following class period to complete this laboratory experiment.

40 minutes Experiment- As students are completing the experiment, I will be monitoring student progress as well as answering any questions they may have about the laboratory procedures. I will also be monitoring for student safety, making sure all students are following the safety rules and regulations that are associated with this experiment. The last five minutes of this timeframe will be devoted towards cleaning up all materials, as well as making sure all safety goggles are properly stored back in their appropriate places. Make sure students label their aluminum trays with their names with tape and markers. After students have labeled their trays have them covered with aluminum foil.

10 minutes Debrief/Conclude- Get student reaction from their experiences dissecting the owl pellet. Ask questions such as, “What types of bones did you find within your owl pellets?”, “About how many bones have you found thus far within your owl pellets?”,“What was your favorite part of the experiment thus far?”, “What do the owl pellets explain about the diet of the owls?”

Assessment: Informally assess students throughout the class period with their participation and understanding of the experiment, their compliance with all of the safety rules and regulations associated with the experiment, as well as their responses at the end of the class period to the debriefing questions.

Materials: Appropriate number of all handouts copied for all students, all materials needed for the laboratory experiment (see laboratory packet), aluminum foil.